

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for cloning a gene comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a naked circular replication-deficient baculovirus vector capable of being maintained in ~~an intermediate host, wherein the intermediate host is a yeast cell or~~ a bacterial cell;

(ii) providing a rescue vector comprising,

(a) a nucleic acid sequence, which is capable of restoring replication in the replication-deficient baculovirus vector, and

(b) at least one gene to be cloned;

(iii) permitting the replication-deficient baculovirus vector and rescue vector to recombine in an insect cell to produce a replication-enabled baculovirus vector comprising the at least one gene to be cloned; and

(iv) growing the replication-enabled baculovirus vector within a suitable invertebrate cell.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 27, wherein the invertebrate cell is an insect cell.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein the replication-deficient baculovirus vector lacks a functional gene necessary for viral replication and the rescue vector comprises a ~~functional~~ gene necessary for restoring the functional gene.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 28, wherein the replication-deficient baculovirus vector lacks a functional gene necessary for viral replication and the rescue vector comprises a ~~functional~~ gene necessary for restoring the functional gene.

31. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 29, wherein the functional gene is selected from *lef-1*, *lef-2*, *lef-3*, *lef-4*, *lef-5*, *lef-6*, *lef-7*, *lef-8*, *lef-9*, *lef-10*, *lef-11*, *lef-12*, *dnapol*, *pl43*, *p35*, *ie-1*, *ie-2*, *p47*, *ORF1629* and *pp31*, ~~or a functional fragment or mutation thereof.~~

32. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 30, wherein the functional gene is selected from *lef-1*, *lef-2*, *lef-3*, *lef-4*, *lef-5*, *lef-6*, *lef-7*, *lef-8*, *lef-9*, *lef-10*, *lef-11*, *lef-12*, *dnapol*, *pl43*, *p35*, *ie-1*, *ie-2*, *p47*, *ORF1629* and *pp31*, ~~or a functional fragment or mutation thereof.~~

33. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the functional gene is *lef-2* ~~or a functional fragment or mutation thereof.~~

34. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32, wherein the functional gene is *lef-2* ~~or a functional fragment or mutation thereof.~~

35-50. (Cancelled)